

Message Text

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ACTION OES-03

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UNCLAS PARIS 25023

DEPT PASS OES/SCI, NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: SPACE

1. SUMMARY: IN LETTER (BEING POUCHED, TEXT IN PARA 2) TO OES/SCI DEP ASST SEC GRANGER, ESRO DG GIBSON SUMMARIZES HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE USG ATTITUDE TOWARD THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING A DELTA LAUNCH FACILITY AT THE KOUROU SPACE CENTER IN FRENCH GUYANA. SINCE GIBSON PLANS TO PRESENT HIS UNDERSTANDING TO ESRO COUNCIL MEETING ON 30 OCTOBER 1974, CONFIRMATION IS DESIRED SOONEST.

2. DEAR MR. GRANGER,
THANK YOU FOR THE USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WE HAD IN WASHINGTON ON 16 OCTOBER 1974. I INTEND TO INFORM MY COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON THE 30 OCTOBER 1974 OF THE IMPRESSIONS I HAVE FORMED OF THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE TO THE POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF A DELTA VEHICLE LAUNCH FACILITY AT KOUROU. MY UNDERSTANDING MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

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1. THE U.S. INTENDS NEITHER TO ENCOURAGE

NOR DISCOURAGE THE SETTING UP OF A DELTA LAUNCH FACILITY IN KOUROU.

2. THE PROVISION OF DELTA LAUNCH VEHICLES WHETHER INTENDED FOR LAUNCH FROM U.S. RANGES OR FROM KOUROU WILL CONTINUE TO BE GOVERNED BY THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY STATEMENT OF 9 OCTOBER 1972. IN ADDITION, THE PROVISION OF U.S. VEHICLES TO BE LAUNCHED FROM KOUROU FOR NON-

MEMBER STATES OF ESRO WILL BE SUBJECT TO A GUARANTEE BY ESRO THAT SUCH VEHICLES WILL NOT BE PROVIDED AT CONCESSIONARY PRICES.

3. ON NATIONAL SECURITY GROUNDS, IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR MDAC TO PROVIDE A FEW ITEMS IN BLACK BOX FORM.

4. ESRO WOULD BE EXPECTED, ON THE AUTHORITY OF ITS COUNCIL, DURING THE DEFINITION PHASE TO INDICATE ACCEPTANCE OF 2. AND 3. ABOVE. THIS ASSURANCE TOGETHER WITH A STATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE ACCEPTING IT, WOULD CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ESRO AND THE U.S. ON THE BASIS OF WHICH THE OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL WOULD BE EXPECTED TO ISSUE THE NECESSARY LICENSES. THERE IS NO MATTER OF PRINCIPLE STANDING IN THE WAY OF SUCH LICENSES.

5. THE LICENSES WOULD PERMIT THE TRANSFER TO ESRO OF SUCH DOCUMENTATION AS WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ESRO TO ASSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FACILITY.

6. PROVIDED THE INITIAL MDAC EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION IS SUFFICIENTLY COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED, THE ISSUANCE OF SUBSEQUENT LICENSES FOR THE EXPORT OF SPECIFIC ITEMS WOULD NOT BE A SOURCE OF DELAY TO THE PROJECT.

7. IF THE ESRO COUNCIL DECIDES TO PROCEED TO THE 5-6 MONTHS DEFINITION PHASE, A SEPARATE EXPORT LICENSE WILL BE NECESSARY BUT HERE AGAIN, THERE IS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE.

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONFIRMATION OF THE ABOVE.

YOURS SINCERELY,

R. GIBSON

ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

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Message Attributes

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